

Vol. 6 No.1 January 1987

# THE TOKEN HUNTER



A publication of the *National Utah Token Society*  
6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, UT 84107



Dedicated to the collection, recording and preservation of tokens and medals

## JAN. SPEAKER

GEORGE A. THOMPSON will be the guest speaker at our next meeting on Thursday, January 22, at 7 PM.

As most of you know, Mr. Thompson is the author of the book "SOME DREAMS DIE" about Utah Ghost Towns and Lost Treasure. He has just

published a new book entitled, "LOST TREASURE ON THE OLD SPANISH TRAILS". This is a 122 page book that includes a spanish-english dictionary, and treasure maps of old Spanish treasure that has never been solved.

He will talk about his new book and may bring some slides on Utah Mine Towns.

The last time that George Thompson spoke at our club meeting, it was one of the largest turnouts for a NUTS meeting.

Tell your friends and bring your books for his autograph. He will also have books that you can purchase that night.

See you at the meeting. It should prove to be an informative and interesting time.

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	Robert Uzelac.....	375-2900
Editors.....	Ross Seely.....	262-2165
	Laura Seely.....	262-2165
Any news, views or information you would like to share? Give someone a call. If you are interested in writing an article or placing an ad, call Ross or Laura Seely.		

# PRESIDENT'S PAGE

I started collecting tokens in 1985 when Alvin Rust came out with his book "Mormon and Utah Coin and Currency". The thing that sold me on the collecting of tokens, was the price list in the back of the book - TOKENS - "Market Value". The prices were from \$2.00 to \$60.00 and I thought, "Now here is something I can afford to collect". Since then I have found that tokens can be quite a bit more expensive than sixty dollars. And since then I have asked myself a number of times why I have stayed with the hobby. I guess the two main reasons are; it is a challenge, and I get a real thrill when I come up with a unique piece to add to my collection.

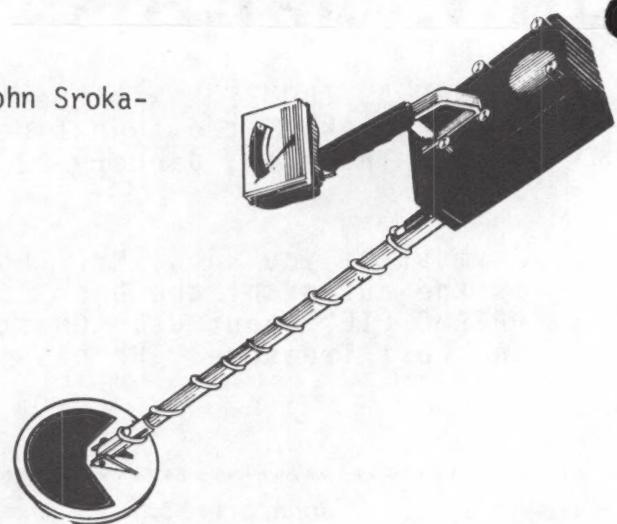
Another side effect I have liked about token hunting or collecting is that I have gained greater interest in Utah history and geography. The collection has caused me to visit places in Utah and talk with people that I am sure I would never have met

without this hobby.

In token hunting, even the beginner can still come up with a unique token worth a couple of hundred dollars for a little or no money at all, but with a little luck and a lot of patience.

Actually, the most important thing for a beginner to learn is to find out what he or she has before he lets it go. And we all have stories about the token we wish we would have never sold or traded.

-John Sroka-



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\*\*  
\*\* THE BRAIN IS A WONDERFUL ORGAN.  
\*\* IT STARTS WORKING THE MOMENT YOU  
\*\* GET UP IN THE MORNING, AND DOES NOT  
\*\* STOP UNTIL YOU GET INTO THE OFFICE  
\*\*  
-ROBERT FROST  
\*\*\*\*\*

# EDUCATIONAL PAGE



By Bob Uzelac

"Number 48 has won five trade tokens", the auctioneer called. Tom casually glanced at his ticket. That's my number he thought. Winning door prizes was not his bag, so he quickly scrambled up to take possession of his treasure. Another token collector was born.

Tokens normally came into use because of coin shortages or special promotionals. As early as 1404, an English king was trying to solve a small coin shortage and did it by issuing lead tokens. The metal used has changed over the centuries and includes copper, aluminum, brass, silver, lead and tin. In recent years tokens of wood, and plastic have been used.

King Edward used tokens carved of leather for the building of 3 castles in Wales, from 1272-1307. They bore his name, stamp, and picture. History does not record their exact usage.

During certain periods of history, coins were not produced in England, so tokens were made in large quantities.

The early commerce of American was tied very closely to England so merchants placed orders for the striking of pieces to be used as token coinage in American Business. They were used as change or advertisement. Hard times tokens were produced from 1830-1840 and were of a political nature and advertising for businesses.

The Civil War era brought a hoarding of gold, silver, and copper to the extent that metallic coins were scarce. After several attempts at a new exchange medium, tokens once again came to the foreground. In 1862 patriotic and tradesmen pieces started to show up. The tokens covered 23 states, 300 towns, and were issued by more than 8,500 tradesman.

Tokens have come and gone as a preferred method of exchange over the years but

have now become a unique collector's item. And the reasons for collecting are as varied as the tokens themselves. Many began as extensions of coin collections. Others had the "bug" hit them as they found tokens with metal detectors. Still other folks collect for nostalgic reasons. Those bitten by the token collecting bug usually have the fever for life.

What is it that intrigues us about tokens? It certainly isn't the gem quality that fascinates coin collectors. Token collectors usually prefer items that exhibit use and wear - they are suspicious of gem uncirculated tokens. Are they old? Are they real? Or has a hoard been discovered?

There is a fantastic variety of die work, styles, subject matter, shapes, metals, designs, and pictorials. Tokens have a direct connection with history - the saloon, the general store, the land baron, or maybe a town that's a ghost memory. Who knows, maybe your find was used by Butch Cassidy or the Sundance Kid.

What is the future of this hobby? Prices are good and strong. Rare tokens are incredibly low in price when one considers the demand for the short supply. There lies the irony and the pleasure of token collecting.

There is the possibility of fakes, however. Many of the simple designs are easily duplicated by sophisticated counterfeiting techniques. The salvation is that tokens have not yet reached an economical feasibility for counterfeiting as of yet.

Utah also has her share of history in the token collectors market. Next month watch for Utah's contribution.

Interested in collecting tokens or just learning more about them. Call Bob Uzelac at BU Coins, 230 North University Avenue, Provo, Utah. Phone (801) 375-2900 for all your coin and stamp needs.

# GLEN'S CORNER

## SUNNY DAYS

By Glen Sidwell

Once again the cold, snow, and fog have settled into the Salt Lake Valley. The fog can bring havoc to one's life especially if you are into metal detecting. When the fog rolls in it is impossible to metal detect because the temperature drops so low. It is miserable to even go outside.

One answer to this problem is Rush Valley and its ghost towns; namely, West Dip, Utah. The weather out there is beautiful and the air is clear.

In a week and a half, I spent three afternoons in West Dip. I came home from there with eleven tokens, two Indian head pennies, (1896 & 1906), and a 1913 D Lincoln cent. This surprised even myself because I know that many metal detectors have been over the town and a lot of people have gone home from West Dip without a find. This leaves a bad feeling in that individual about West Dip.

I strongly believe that if you go to a ghost town, you must go with the attitude that you will leave for home with a find that you can add to your collection. (Even if it hurts your back a little from digging up a lot of junk.)

However, of the tokens I have found in West Dip, they are from the San Pedro Club and are worth 6 1/4¢ in trade. This find brings the total number of San Pedro Club tokens to 12 known. And all of these tokens have been found in West Dip. The Utah Gazeteer listed it as being

located in Mercur or West Dip. With this many tokens found in West Dip, one could assume that the San Pedro Club was there. But according to Bill Turpella, his grandmother, who at one time lived in West Dip, said that the San Pedro Club was a bar located in Mercur. I will see if I can get more information on this for the next edition of the Token Hunter.

The best find I made on my next trip out was the Golden Gate Saloon from Mercur. This token was lying on top of the ground with a small pebble on it. The pebble was partially hiding the token from view. For a second I thought it was the bottom of a shotgun shell, but this turned out to be the horseshoe design on the back of the coin. This was the find that definitely made my day.

The last token I found will be featured in the new MAVERICK section enclosed in this edition of the Token Hunter.

Well anyway, it is nice to make some nice finds in a ghost town. I know I have left for home from West Dip before without anything, but there isn't any sense in giving up. The finds are there. They may be a little harder to find, but they are there!!



# FROM THE WAGONMASTERS

By Bryan Moulton

1987 is here and it's time to start dusting of that camping gear and ready ourselves for this years' outings and camping trips.

This year we have added a third Wagonmaster instead of just two as we have had in the past.

This years' Wagonmasters are myself, Bill Turpella and Eric Jameson. I believe that between the three of us we can come up with some very good ideas of some great and exciting places to go. **BUT, WE WOULD LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU.**

We will be asking for your suggestions and ideas in the near future. When we finish with the planning stage, we will place a calendar of events for 1987 in the Token Hunter. We will also have an article on the place we intend to visit which will include a brief history of the town, a meeting place, and directions to get all of us to the place we are going.

Let's all try to make this the most exciting and successful year.

So long for now.....

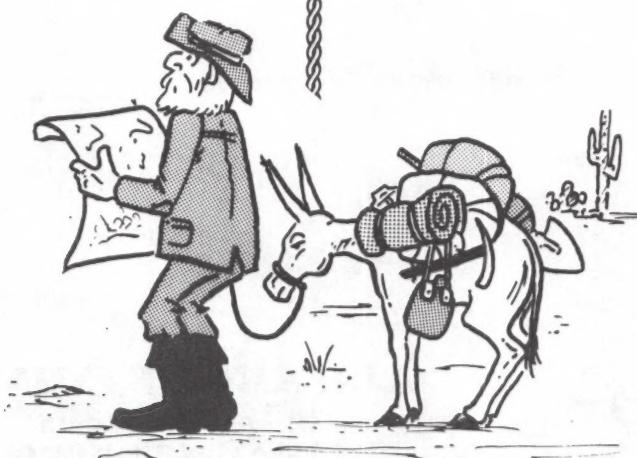
## RAFFLE!

Raffled off at the next meeting on Thursday the 22nd will be the following items;

1. BEAVER COOP TOKEN FROM BEAVER
2. RM WOOLEY TOKEN FROM EAST GARFIELD,
3. Z TOKEN FROM PARK CITY
4. MILLS NOVELTY COMPANY TOKEN
5. TINTIC HIGH SCHOOL #68 TOKEN

**AND..... 1 OUNCE OF SILVER BULLION**

BE SURE YOU DON'T MISS THE NEXT MEETING!!



# CLUES!

1. The date of the Presidential campaign token of Joseph Smith? \_\_\_\_\_
2. The order # of Dollar size of Whitman 2x2 snaps? \_\_\_\_\_
3. What action code does one use to reset a NCR computer cash register model 255 for the next day? \_\_\_\_\_
4. How many pages are in a 1959 Red Book? \_\_\_\_\_
5. The 38-55 Winchester has what bore diameter? \_\_\_\_\_
6. The total # of Members of the LDS Church in Africa as listed in the May 8th, 1976 Church News? \_\_\_\_\_
7. The hardness of Andalusite? \_\_\_\_\_
8. The specific gravity of silver? \_\_\_\_\_
9. The page # where you can find Leslee Ann Catmull who attended Olympus High School? \_\_\_\_\_ Grade 11.
10. What water boils at in Kelvin? \_\_\_\_\_
11. The distance from the sun to the Earth? \_\_\_\_\_ In astronomical units.
12. One arc second on the sun? \_\_\_\_\_
13. To escape Earth's gravitational pull in a rocket ship? \_\_\_\_\_ km/sec
14. Last Apollo Mission? \_\_\_\_\_
15. Number of championships the Boston Celtics have won? \_\_\_\_\_
16. Batting average of the last 400 plus hitter in the major league, baseball? \_\_\_\_\_
17. McHale's Navy Boat Number? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Number of TV Star Trek episodes? \_\_\_\_\_
19. John Kennedy was killed with what size caliber gun? \_\_\_\_\_
20. How many times has Jason risen from the dead? \_\_\_\_\_
21. The number of years between Texas Chain Saw Massacre I and II? \_\_\_\_\_
22. The Manyam Calendar had 360 days and 5 holidays. How many were taken holidays, on a leap year? \_\_\_\_\_
23. Atomic weight of Pm? \_\_\_\_\_

#9. Add the total number of all the clues above and subtract 19822.873 \_\_\_\_\_

#11. Take the total of clue #9 and add 964. \_\_\_\_\_

#7. Use this number and it will help you find a clue. A. QΛ7M +  
B. Σ +  
C. Σ +  
+4857210 (=) \_\_\_\_\_



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More Info:  
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Abbott Drive & Locust  
Omaha, NE 68110  
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AND IS IN NEED OF REPAIR.  
WILL TRADE FOR NICE TOKEN.

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GLEN 467-9566

BUY, SALE, OR TRADE. TO PLACE YOUR AD IN THE NEXT EDITION OF THE  
TOKEN HUNTER, CALL 262-2165 OR WRITE TO: EDITOR OF THE TOKEN  
HUNTER, PO BOX 71183, SLC, UTAH 84107. THE COST IS \$5.00 PER MONTH  
FOR NON-MEMBERS AND ONLY \$2.50 PER MONTH FOR MEMBERS.

# MAVERICKS



This year's Token Hunter will have a new section called MAVERICKS.

Everyone in the club has a piece that they know nothing about. But maybe someone else has a little information they can share about it.

This month's Maverick is good for 5 cents in trade with an ornate KC on the obverse.

Several are known to exist and this particular token was found in West Dip, Utah.

If you have any information on this piece, please contact Glen Sidwell at 467-9566

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By Laura Seely

## EDITOR'S NOTE

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It is very, very late and I have just finished the first edition of the TOKEN HUNTER for the year 1987, and for myself.

Ross and I are new at token hunting and treasure hunting in general. In fact, it is because of George Thompson's book "Some Dreams Die", that we got involved at all. Ross had always been fascinated with old artifacts, and he wanted to know more about Utah and her history. So I gave him George Thompson's book. Ever since that time (about 2-3 years ago), we love to dig for treasure. I can still see the look on some of our friends faces when we make them stop the car so we can get out and dig in some old dirty dump. They looked at us as if we were nuts. Little did we know then that we soon would be.

In putting this TOKEN HUNTER together, I have found an appreciation for my english teacher and I wished I had paid a little closer attention.

If anything comes out of this experience, it will be learning new words like "MAVERICK". The word Maverick means to me something in the way of James Garner in a cowboy hat who gambles a lot. I even looked up the word in the dictionary, but it didn't help.

So, I have added my own interpretation to the "Maverick" section. (I hope it is spelled correctly.)

Anyway, I have really enjoyed it so far, but for now I am tired.... good-night.

P.S. "Thanks" to all of you who wrote articles for this edition. Keep up the good work!

# ENROLL NOW!

IT IS THAT TIME AGAIN TO PAY YEARLY DUES!!!!!!

We would like to know more about you and your interests. Please take a few minutes to complete the questions below when you fill out the enrollment form. This survey will be used to determine future club activities.

All individual comments are confidential. Personal reference will only be made if you grant us permission. Please be as accurate as possible in responding to each of these questions. Also, please feel free to extend any comments or suggestions that may help the club, a product line, or the hobby in general.

Simply tear this entire page from the TOKEN HUNTER and return to one of the officers or mail to; N.U.T.S., 6143 Rainy Lane, Murray, Utah, 84107.

1. Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

2. Do we have your permission to use your name as related to your responses in this questionnaire? NO \_\_\_\_\_ YES \_\_\_\_\_

SIGNATURE \_\_\_\_\_

3. How many years have you been metal detecting? \_\_\_\_\_

4. Name five types of places you metal detect. 1 \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_

5. What is your favorite type of hunting site? \_\_\_\_\_

6. What is the oldest coin you have found? \_\_\_\_\_

7. What is the deepest coin you have found? \_\_\_\_\_

8. What is the most valuable coin you have found? \_\_\_\_\_

9. Do you prefer to hunt alone? with a friend? or group? \_\_\_\_\_

10. Do you relic hunt? \_\_\_\_\_ If not, would you like to? \_\_\_\_\_

11. Do you do any prospecting? \_\_\_\_\_ If no, would you like to? \_\_\_\_\_

12. What percentage of your coins are pre-1940? \_\_\_\_\_

13. What percentage of your coins are pre-1910? \_\_\_\_\_

14. Have you ever asked a total stranger if you could metal detect in their yard? \_\_\_\_\_ Results? \_\_\_\_\_

15. Are you satisfied with your present efforts or would you like to work more productive areas, or areas with old-coin potential even if it meant a short trip? \_\_\_\_\_

16. How many days per week or month do you get out during the summer? \_\_\_\_\_ days per \_\_\_\_\_

17. How many hours do you spend detecting per week? \_\_\_\_\_

18. How many hours do you spend reading treasure hunting magazines or books per week? \_\_\_\_\_

19. How many hours do you spend doing research on treasure hunting each week/month? \_\_\_\_\_

20. What make/model detector(s) do you have now? \_\_\_\_\_  
And which one do you use the most? \_\_\_\_\_

21. What makes/models would you NOT recommend and why? \_\_\_\_\_

22. What makes/models are you the most interested in? \_\_\_\_\_

23. Which feature(s) do you feel are not necessary on todays' metal detectors? \_\_\_\_\_ Why? \_\_\_\_\_

24. Which features or ideas would you suggest a manufacturer should consider adding? \_\_\_\_\_

25. What prospecting equipment do you have? \_\_\_\_\_

26. How many times a year do you go panning or dredging? \_\_\_\_\_

27. Would you like a club to offer more exciting outings? \_\_\_\_\_

28. Would you be interested in working on a club committee to do research and site evaluation? \_\_\_\_\_

29. What topic do you want to have covered in a meeting presentation? \_\_\_\_\_

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#### **ENROLLMENT FORM**

YEARLY DUES

PLEASE ENROLL MYSELF (\$7.50) \_\_\_\_\_ FAMILY (\$12.50) \_\_\_\_\_  
AS A MEMBER OF THE NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY FOR 1987

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

NAME OF SPOUSE IF PURCHASING A FAMILY MEMBERSHIP? \_\_\_\_\_

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CITY \_\_\_\_\_

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TELEPHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_

**MAKE CHECK PAYABLE TO: NATIONAL UTAH TOKEN SOCIETY**

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For more information please call 262-2165 or any of the members listed on the front of the TOKEN HUNTER.